

It is possible, as Dr. Dall asserts, that the series in question are depressed specimens of *C. convexa*;—the extreme convex form of which he supposes to be caused by growing on the rounded surfaces of small univalves, but I do not think it at all probable.

Quite a number of those in my own collection were taken from small univalves but they are precisely the same in character as the series alluded to, and, like them, are labeled *C. glauca*, Say. As a matter of fact the peculiarly arched forms known as *C. convexa* are very rare on our immediate coasts, while those described as *C. glauca* are comparatively plentiful.

Why should there be this disparity in numbers? It surely cannot be for the want of those "roosting conditions" so needful to the growth of *C. convexa*, since it is well known that the small univalves of our region greatly outnumber the large ones.

Though many hundreds of the former have been examined by me I have never seen a *C. convexa* upon them. I have also scanned every available point on the New Jersey coast scores of times within the last twenty-five years, and during all of that period have secured but six specimens (all dead), corresponding to Say's description of *C. convexa*.

This fact of course proves nothing; nevertheless, until further evidence to the contrary is adduced I shall deem it prudent to consider them two distinct and well-marked species.

Should they, however, eventually prove to be the same, even then, as my friend, Mr. H. A. Pilsbry, has stated, the name *C. glauca*, having precedence over *C. convexa* in Say's original paper, must always stand for the type form, and be entitled therefore to a "place of honor" in all monographs of the genus.

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### Young Collectors' Department.

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#### COLLECTING LAND SHELLS IN EASTERN NEW YORK.

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BY W. S. TEATOR.

(Continued from February No.)

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More careful hunting under the logs will bring to light good specimens of *Zonites arboreus*, *indentatus*, and *viridulus*; the last two rather scarce. Also a few *Zonites fulvus*, *H. labyrinthica* and

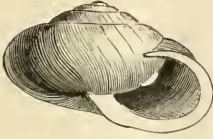
*pulchella*, and *Pupa contracta*; but they are more partial to swampy situations, and with other small species are found in great numbers in certain places farther back in the country. Just one dead shell of *nitidus* has been taken—near the water, and it would seem to be a splendid locality for them. The *albolabris* is worthy of special mention on account of the superior size to which they attain: very seldom are they less than 30 mill. in diameter, while one shell measures 36. The *H. palliata* also are very perfect.

From the lower end of these woods to the 'Vly' is but a short distance; a long narrow strip of woodland lies on the north side of the causeway and forms the entire south shore of the cove. Here the conditions are much different; the ground is not over a foot or two above the high tides, and portions of it are occasionally inundated. The soil is of rich black mould with clay substratum, and has produced a dense growth of trees, principally elm; and a luxurious, almost tropical, undergrowth of shrubbery, ferns, and weeds.

Here lives and flourishes a colony of *Succinea obliqua* that is peculiarly interesting. During the warm months, May, June, July and August, they are wonderfully abundant. After the rains they are swarming over everything; feeding on the decaying rubbish, crawling on the weeds and bushes, going up the trunks of trees, and disporting themselves generally as if they really enjoyed their existence. Sometimes I have observed eighteen or twenty large fellows gathered around the foot of a tree as if on the point of a forward march of ascension. They never go very high however; I have not noticed them beyond five or six feet from the ground. Nor do they confine their attention to the woods; for in an adjacent large meadow many of them may be found traveling in the deep grass, some as much as a third of a mile away on the hillsides. So congenial are all the conditions surrounding them that they grow to surprising proportions; the best shells average 24 to 25 millimeters, often exceeding this. I have recently obtained one that is 28 mill. long. Mr. Pilsbry, to whom I sent a few specimens, says of them, "they are simply phenomenal in size." Mr. Binney tells me one rarely meets such large ones. The greatest length he mentions in his Manual of American Land Shells is 25 mill. Toward the latter part of summer the older ones die off rapidly, and late in the fall very few of them can be seen—but some of course survive the winter, while plenty of young will be left in the field for another year, which

hibernate so carefully that one is amazed when spring opens to find such armies of them.

Living along with *Succineæ* are *H. thyroides* and *alternata*; shells of the former quite pretty, some of them delicate pink color, and a number of specimens are encircled with two or three bands of white, seemingly eroded. *Macrocyllis concava* and *Zonites fulvus* also occur. *Pupæ* are scarce; I have only seen a few *contracta* and *pentodon*. In the



*H. thyroides.*



wettest parts of the woods, in the moss, great numbers of *Pomatiopsis lapidaria* can be gathered; also *Carychium exiguum*; and in the cove and river in the near vicinity are twenty or more species of fresh water shells, many of them of excellent quality.

During the early part of the present winter, as frosty days were quite the exception, I visited "Almont" frequently for collecting, all of them delightfully successful trips. Have gleaned much of interest regarding the hibernation of the different snails there found. Here are my notes for the 7th of January this year:

"Particularly numerous at this time are *H. palliata*, though not so easily found as in summer. They are invariably closed with the epiphragm, lying aperture upward, looking very pretty when first exposed to the light, their pearly white lips contrasting beautifully with the dark epidermis. Old bark nests seem to be a favorite place for them to congregate for winter. Sometimes they will be found singly, often five or six grouped together; and at times as many as twenty or thirty distributed about a single little vicinity. A situation of this sort is often chosen by *H. monodon* (*fraterna*); this species can thus be found to the extent of twenty or more individuals in a cluster wintering along with *H. palliata*. Once in a while the collector is pleased by the finding of a large *Zonites fuliginosus*

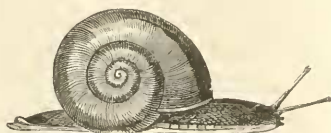


*Z. fuliginosus.*

buried his whole depth in the ground, and nothing visible save the membranous covering over the aperture. *H. albolabris*, usually so plentiful in the warm season is now apparently very scarce; not over a half dozen live ones found this winter, and they were among the leaves, partially imbedded. In another wood near here the boys while raking

leaves late last fall obtained for me about one hundred specimens hibernating in the same way. *H. thyroides* at this time is occasionally gotten here and more especially at the 'Vly,' mostly buried in the earth. In a few instances I find the animal out and crawling, observed them to-day, and on the 26th of December. A cluster of very well-developed *fulvus* was obtained on the latter date under stones near tide water. A goodly quantity of *S. ovalis* was gathered a while ago, among and attached to broken rushes between the tides (dormant); but their number has greatly decreased since last summer."

Thus the region is more than doubly interesting to the conchologist, and it is one of the fields to which I have given considerable attention.



*Z. fuliginosus.*

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

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The party of scientists in Mexico from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia are now in the neighborhood of Vera Cruz. When last heard from they were about to make an ascent of the volcano of Orizaba; after which they will travel inland.

I find *Helix clausa* abundant in vacant lots within the city limits of St. Louis. Found a dozen last summer clinging to leaves of elder berry bushes (*Sambucus canadensis*) at a height of six feet or more from the ground.—G. D. LIND, St. Louis, Mo.